

MINUTES OF THE SIXTH MEETING OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON EXPLOITATION
OF FOREIGN DOCUMENTS

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[redacted] Washington, 23 May 1949

Presents: Mr. J. J. Bagnall, Chairman
Mr. Theodore Nordbeck, Department of State
Mr. T. A. Georgevitch, Department of Army
Lt. Col. W. A. Illing, Department of Navy
Lt. Col. W. C. Bonnivitz, Department of Air

Consultants from FDS:

25X1A

Observer from OCD: Mr. [redacted]

1. A sample copy of a format for the publication of "Book Abstracts" was presented to the Committee. This format was acceptable to the Committee by unanimous vote and it was decided that FDS should commence this publication as soon as possible covering selected Soviet books as a common service for the IAG.

2. Yugoslavia

The conclusions of the Committee are:

a. Publications of intelligence value are readily available at this time in Yugoslavia.

b. There is some exploitation in Belgrade, mainly for spot political information.

c. There is no exploitation in Washington other than that now being performed by FDS.

d. There is need for such exploitation and FDS should perform this common service for the IAG.

e. Wider coverage of source material is necessary and an active procurement program should be implemented to ensure receipt of newspapers, periodicals and books of intelligence value for such exploitation.

The inter-agency procurement agreement has never functioned and Mr. Nordbeck suggested that it be cancelled in favor of one of the following procedures:

a. That the Embassy officer, responsible for co-ordination of publication purchases, be instructed to

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secure duplicate subscriptions to all items selected by the service representatives and those additional titles potentially containing information satisfying the requirements of the IAC.

b. That the respective service attaches purchase two copies of each item of interest to them, one copy to be forwarded to FDB through State Department channels.

It was decided that procurement procedures will require further study in regard to available funds and priorities of selection of titles within fiscal limits. This matter will be concluded later.

3. Poland and Czechoslovakia

a. Publication of intelligence value are easily available in Poland and Czechoslovakia at this time.

b. Press summaries are prepared in Warsaw and Prague. The coverage is not adequate for IAC in either case.

c. There is no exploitation in Washington other than the service now being performed by FDB. FDB should continue this common service and expand it to meet the requirements of the IAC.

4. Hungary

a. There is a press summary distributed by the Embassy. Further coverage is necessary to the IAC.

b. There is no exploitation in Washington other than that being performed by FDB. FDB should continue and expand this common service for the IAC.

5. Finland

a. There are two press services at the Embassy, in Helsinki. Further exploitation is needed by the IAC.

b. Further conclusions of the Committee are the same as for Poland and Czechoslovakia.

6. Romania

a. The same conclusions apply to Romania as for Poland and Czechoslovakia except that procurement of basic documents is extremely difficult and all services should combine efforts to procure as many publications as possible for FDB exploitation. Reliance should not be placed on JAH for exploitation of Romanian press.

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7. Bulgaria

a. The same conclusions apply as for Romania.

8. Albania

No exploitation in the field or in Washington is being performed on the press and publications of Albania. Procurement efforts are limited but steps can be taken to increase them and FOB should prepare to exploit these documents as a common service for IAC.

25X1A

9. The next meeting of the Committee will be held at 14⁰⁰,
6 June 1949, at [redacted] Washington, D. C. The agenda:

1. Unfinished business.
2. Far Eastern countries in the following order:

China
Korea
Japan
French Indo-China
Siam
Burma
Indonesia
Malaya